II.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A character recognition system, comprising:

at least one transducer system for scanning printed character data and generating a plurality of sets of transduced character information;

a position collection system for collectively storing positional data for each of a plurality of characters in each set of transduced character information, wherein the positional data includes a distance value for each character representing a distance from the character to a predetermined location on a document containing the printed character data;

a character position synchronization system that utilizes the positional data stored for the plurality of characters to positionally synchronize corresponding characters from different sets of transduced character information, wherein the character position synchronization system determines a proper position of each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data that does not have any missing or erroneously added characters by comparing the distance values of the characters in the first string of inaccurate character data with the distance values of the second string of accurate character data; and

a voting engine for receiving the positionally synchronized sets of transduced character information.

2. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 1, comprising an optical character recognition (OCR) transducer and a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) transducer.

3. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the at least one transducer system generates a plurality of sets of transduced character information based on different gray-scale level settings.

4. Canceled

5. (Currently Amended) The character recognition system of claim 1 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the predetermined location includes an edge of the document.

6. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 4, wherein each position measurement provides a distance from a middle point of the character to the predetermined location.

7. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 4, wherein the character position synchronization system determines if characters from different sets of transduced characters correspond to each other by matching the position measurement of the characters in different sets, within a predetermined tolerance.

8. (Currently Amended) A character recognition system, comprising:

a position collection system for collectively storing positional data for each of a plurality of characters in a plurality of corresponding sets of transduced character information, wherein the positional data includes a distance value for each character representing a distance from the character to a predetermined location on a document containing the printed character data; and

a character position synchronization system that utilizes the positional data stored for the plurality of characters to positionally synchronize characters from the corresponding sets of transduced character information, wherein the character position synchronization system identifies a proper position of each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data <u>by comparing the distance values of the characters in the first string of inaccurate character data with the distance values of the second string of accurate character data</u>.

9. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 8, further comprising at least one transducer system for scanning printed character data and generating the corresponding sets of transduced character information.

10. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 9, wherein the at least one transducer system generates a plurality of corresponding sets of transduced character information based on different gray-scale level settings.

11. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 8, further comprising a voting engine for processing the corresponding sets of transduced character information.

12. Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) The character recognition system of claim 8 ~~claim 12~~, wherein the predetermined location includes an edge of the document.

14. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 12, wherein each position measurement provides a distance from a middle point of the character to the predetermined location.

15. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 12, wherein the character position synchronization system ensures that corresponding characters from corresponding sets of transduced character information have the same position measurement, within a predetermined tolerance.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for providing character recognition in which multiple sets of corresponding transduced character information are analyzed by a voting engine, comprising:

scanning printed character data to generate multiple sets of corresponding transduced character information;

collectively storing positional data for a plurality of characters in the sets of corresponding transduced character information, wherein the positional data includes a distance value for each character representing a distance from the character to a predetermined location on a document containing the printed character data; and

positionally synchronizing characters using a computing device from the sets of corresponding transduced character information utilizing stored positional data associated with the plurality of characters, wherein the positional synchronization determines a proper position for each of the characters in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data by comparing

the distance values of the characters in the first string of inaccurate character data with the distance values of the second string of accurate character data.

17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the position measurement provides a distance from the character to an edge of the document.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein positionally synchronizing characters includes the step of determining if characters from different sets of transduced characters correspond to each other by comparing the position measurement of the characters.

20. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a computer readable medium for facilitating character recognition in a multi-voting character recognition engine, comprising:

means for collectively storing positional data for sets of characters contained in a plurality of corresponding sets of transduced character information, wherein the positional data includes a distance value for each character representing a distance from the character to a predetermined location on a document containing the printed character data; and

means for positionally synchronizing character information from the corresponding sets of transduced character information by determining a proper position for each character in a first string of inaccurate character data having a missing or erroneously added character based on a second string of accurate character data by comparing the distance values of the characters in the

first string of inaccurate character data with the distance values of the second string of accurate character data.

21. Canceled

22. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 20 ~~claim 21~~, wherein the means for positionally synchronizing character information ensures that corresponding characters from corresponding sets of transduced character have the same position measurement, within a predetermined tolerance.